



2024-25 Programs

Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes for children PreK-8th grade are built around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s curriculum called **Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living**. "This curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now."



Each week, all grades will be learning about the same biblical principles and stories in age-appropriate ways, allowing us to be in conversation about what we are learning together.

We'll all begin in worship together and then, as we pass the peace, all children who wish to participate in Sunday School may head to their classrooms on the second floor of the Christian Education wing (the northeast corner of the building) with their classroom shepherd.

Classes end when worship ends and we ask that students through 5th grade are picked up by an authorized person once worship has ended so our teachers might also enjoy fellowship time during Social Hour.

Confirmation

Our confirmation program is designed for students ages 8th grade and up who wish to learn more about what it means to confirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism. We use the Episcopal **Confirm not Conform: Presbyterian Edition** curriculum, a youth confirmation program that exposes youth to a wide range of topics, including Scripture, sacraments, creeds, heresy, prayer, other religions, and serving others, and asks them to think through what they believe and why.

Confirm not Conform emphasizes finding one's own voice rather than simply conforming to an external standard. It is a program that respects the work youth and adults do as they explore their faith, trusting that when people put in the effort to articulate what they believe and why, they will make good choices about their next step in faith.

Classes meet for 17 Sundays throughout the school year. Before the school year begins, we have a weekend retreat and we end the year with an all-church celebration on a Saturday in the weeks leading up to Confirmation, which is typically celebrated on Pentecost. (Because Pentecost is so late in 2025, celebrations will be in May.)



Adult

ALL of our Adult Ed offerings are designed for dropping in whenever you can, with little or no prep. Attend all classes in a series or just one or two and still be enriched.

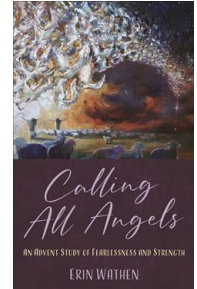
Mondays: November 25, December 2, December 9, December 16

Advent Book Study in-person 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Advent Book Study Zoom 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

“What would you do if you were not afraid?”

The words ‘do not be afraid’ are not just words of comfort; they are an invitation and a calling from God. *Calling All Angels* asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds in the Advent story.” [from Westminster John Knox Press]

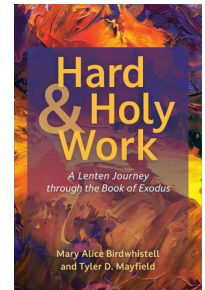


Mondays: March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31, April 7, April 14

Lent Book Study in-person 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Lent Book Study Zoom 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

“Many of us want to understand how to integrate our personal spiritual lives more actively with our engagement in working for justice and the liberation of the oppressed and marginalized. *Hard and Holy Work* provides a space for just that, helping readers participate in Lent in a new way by becoming attuned to God’s boundless presence in our world and waking up to and taking action for God’s justice through exploring stories from the book of Exodus that have inspired the work of liberation for centuries.” [from Westminster John Knox Press]

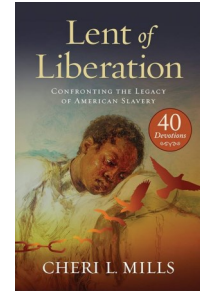


NEW additional Lent lunchtime/early evening offering

Wednesdays: March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16

Join us on Zoom from 12:00 PM-12:30 PM OR 6:00 PM-6:30 PM to answer together one of the questions posed by the daily devotional entitled *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery*.

“Each of the forty devotions includes the testimony of a person who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, a Scripture passage, and a reflection connecting biblical and historical themes to challenge modern readers to work for liberation. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, readers, both Black and white, will be empowered for the work of racial justice.” [from Westminster John Knox Press]



Watch for additional offerings as the year progresses!

Children and Youth: Special Opportunities at First Presbyterian Church

Youth Leadership Team Meeting

Second Sundays, 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

Any JHF/SHF student who wants to take part in shaping the upcoming JHF/SHF program year is encouraged to come to these (mostly) monthly meetings in the Youth Lounge!

“First Communion” Class

On Sunday, September 29, kids who have not taken communion yet, or who could use some instruction to learn more about the practical and theological meanings of communion (and their families) are invited to come to the sanctuary at 3:00 PM to learn more in advance of celebrating “First Communion” during worship in both spaces on the following Sunday, October 6.

Advent Wreath and Crèche Workshop

Join other members of your church family after worship to enjoy a meal and to make an Advent wreath with fresh cuttings to get you ready for the season. If you have been building a crèche set with new pieces yearly, your next piece will also be ready for you. And, if this is all new to you, come get your first piece to join the tradition of building handmade crèche figures for you to take home and use throughout the season.

All-Church Game Night

People of all ages are invited to gather together for an evening of tabletop/board games and yummy food in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 5, from 4:30 PM-6:30 PM.

Third Grade Bible Presentation & Luncheon

On Sunday, January 19, Third Graders will receive a new Bible from the church during worship and then, from 11:15 AM-12:15 PM, come to Fellowship Hall for an interactive lesson on how to find things in their (new) Bibles, why the Bible is significant, and when to turn to it. Fun crafts to help navigate the Bible are part of our time together!

And more to come in the summer months!

Parents of Youth and Young Adults: Special Opportunities at First Presbyterian Church

JHF/SHF Parent Gathering: Sunday, September 29, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

Parents of Junior High and Senior High kids are invited to the Social Hall to ask questions about upcoming events and connect with other parents over some simple snacks—maybe even find someone with whom to share youth group carpool duties?

College Care Package Building: Sunday, November 3, 5:45 PM-6:45 PM

Families of our college kids are invited to bring a mailing container and a package of pre-wrapped treats to share with others for an afternoon of fall care package-building. First Pres will take care of the mailing if you give us the address! We'll have note cards, markers, stickers, packing tape, and mailing labels ready for you in the Social Hall.

JHF/SHF Parent Gathering: Sunday, January 26, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

Parents of Junior High and Senior High kids are invited to the Social Hall for a spring semester gathering akin to the fall.

College Care Package Building: Sunday, April 6, 5:45 PM-6:45 PM

Families of our college kids are invited to bring a mailing container and a package of pre-wrapped treats to share with others and build a spring care package for their loved one(s). We'll meet in Social Hall with all the same kind of supplies as in the fall.

Children and Youth: Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church

First through Third Friends

About once a quarter, first through third graders are invited to build friendships, playing and eating together from 11:15 AM-12:45 PM. **September 22, February 16, April 13**



Fourth and Fifth Fellowship

About once a quarter, fourth through fifth graders are invited to deepen their friendships, with a meal and activities from 11:15 AM-12:45 PM. **October 20, January 26, May 18**



Junior High Fellowship (JHF)

Junior High Fellowship, or JHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.



Senior High Fellowship (SHF)

Much like Junior High Fellowship, Senior High Fellowship, or SHF, meets most Sunday evenings from 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM. in the Youth Lounge (accessed by the exterior stairwell on Douglas). We meet for conversation, fellowship, service, and fun. Occasionally, we will meet at other times and places for retreats, service opportunities, or other off-site activities.



2024-25 Calendar

(September 2024 version; subject to change)

Sunday, September 8 - RALLY DAY SUNDAY!

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Rally Day Celebration 11:00 AM-12:00PM

JHF Kick-off 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF Kick-off 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, September 15

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #1 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, September 22

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

First through Third Friends 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Confirmation Class #2 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Sunday, September 29

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

“First Communion” Class 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

JHF/SHF Parent Gathering 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, October 6

“First Communion” Sunday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, October 13

Confirmation Class #3 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, October 20

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Confirmation Class #4 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Saturday, October 26

Feed My Starving Children service event 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Sunday, October 27

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #5 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF/SHF TBD

Sunday, November 3

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #6 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

College Care Package Building 5:45 PM-6:45 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, November 10

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #7 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, November 17

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #8 11:45 AM-12:15 PM

JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Sunday, November 24

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Advent Wreath-making, Crèche-piece-pick-up, and all-church lunch 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Monday, November 25

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Sunday, December 1

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Monday, December 2

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Sunday, December 8

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #9 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF/SHF Combined Caroling Event 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Monday, December 9

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Sunday, December 15

Confirmation Class #10 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Monday, December 16

In-person Advent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Advent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Saturday, December 21

Confirmation Class Mobile Food Pantry Service event 7:30 AM-9:30 AM

Sunday, January 5

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #11 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

Game Night 4:30 PM-6:30 PM

Friday, January 10-Sunday, January 12

JHF winterXtreme Retreat at Camp TimberLee

Sunday, January 12

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

NO JHF because of weekend retreat

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, January 19

Third Grade Bibles 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

How-to-Read-Your-Bible Luncheon 11:15 AM-12:15 AM

JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Sunday, January 26

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Confirmation Class #12 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

JHF/SHF Parent Gathering 5:30 PM-6:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Friday, January 31-Sunday, February 2

SHF Stronghold Retreat

Sunday, February 2

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Sunday, February 9 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, February 16

First through Third Friends 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Sunday, February 23

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #13 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Sunday, March 2

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #14 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, March 9

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Class #15 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Monday, March 10

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 12

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Saturday, March 15

Confirmation Class Mobile Food Pantry Service event 7:30 AM-9:30 AM

Youth Sunday Rehearsal 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Sunday, March 16 - Youth Sunday

Pi Day Pie Sale Fundraiser 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Monday, March 17

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 19

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Monday, March 24

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 26

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Monday, March 31

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 2

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Sunday, April 6

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Pre-Montreat gathering for parents and attendees 11:00 AM-11:45 AM

Confirmation Class #16 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

College Care Package Building 5:45 PM-6:45 PM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Monday, April 7

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 9

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Feed My Starving Children service event 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Friday, April 11

SHF Lock-out 6:00 PM-11:30 PM

Sunday, April 13

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

First through Third Grade Friends 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Confirmation Class #17 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

JHF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Youth Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 PM-7:00 PM

Monday, April 14

In-person Lent Book Study 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Zoom Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 16

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

Zoom Alternative Lent Book Study 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

Friday, April 25

JHF Lock-out 6:00 PM-11:30 PM

Sunday, April 27

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

SHF 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Sunday, May 4

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Confirmation Luncheon 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

LAST JHF/SHF Combined 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Saturday, May 10

iConfirm Rehearsal 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

iConfirm Service and Celebration 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Sunday, May 11

Sunday School for Pre-K through 8th grade 10:15 AM-11:00 AM

Sunday, May 19 - Confirmation and Baccalaureate Sunday

Confirmation and Baccalaureate 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Fourth and Fifth Fellowship 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

Wednesday, June 4

pre-Montreat gathering for attendees 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Saturday, June 7-Saturday, June 14 Montreat Youth Trip